

Report from Data Group to Subcommittee to Study Early Childhood Special Education

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October 11, 2006

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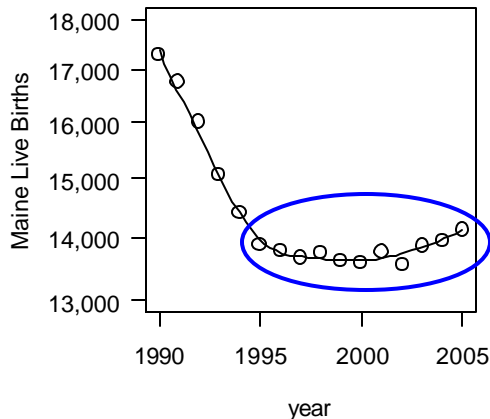
Data Sources

- Maine Dept of Education:
www.maine.gov/education/specedddata
- US Dept of Education: www.ed.gov
- Westat/USDOE: www.ideadata.org
- US Census Bureau: www.census.gov
- National Center for Health Statistics, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/nchs/births.htm
- Office of Vital Records, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine Dept of Health & Human Services:
www.maine.gov/dhhs/bohodr/ovrpage.htm
- IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association:
www.ideainfanttoddler.org
- Additional data provided by Maine Dept of Education and Maine Dept of Health & Human Services

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Maine Live Births Are **Not** Decreasing

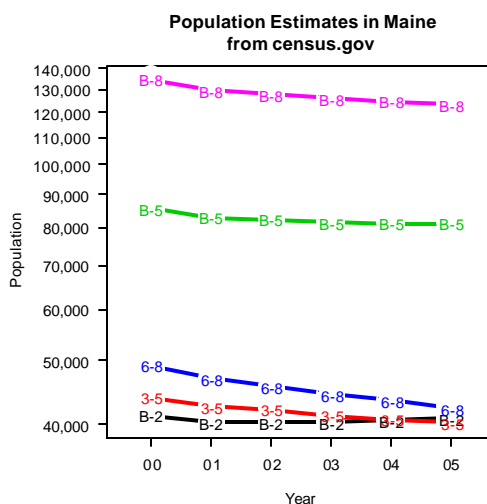


Live births fell through the early 1990s, but Maine births were flat through the late 1990s and have been **increasing** slightly since 2000.

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Maine Population Trends



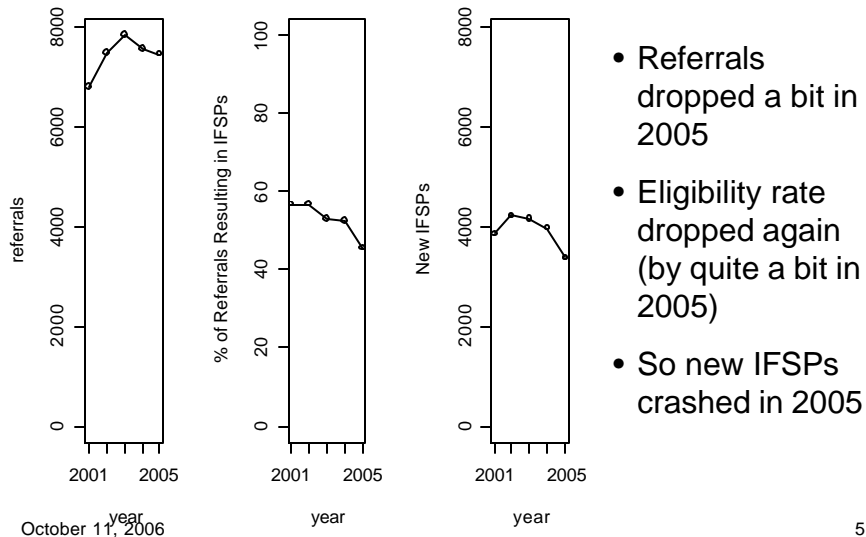
	5-year change (00-05)	1-year change (04-05)
B-8	- 8.2%	- 0.1%
B-5	- 5.0%	- 0.2%
B-6	-13.8%	- 2.2%
B-3	- 8.7%	- 1.3%
B-2	- 1.0%	+ 0.9%

- Recall 7% drop in CDS ChildCount from 2004 to 2005
- Birth-5 population barely changed in that time
- Population of B-2-year-olds is now increasing because **birth rate is not trending down.**

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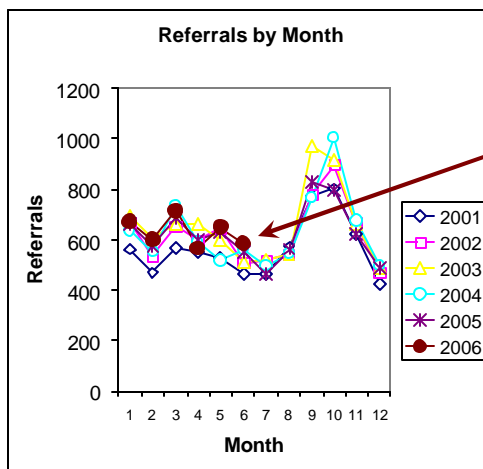
New IFSPs Are Down



- Referrals dropped a bit in 2005
- Eligibility rate dropped again (by quite a bit in 2005)
- So new IFSPs crashed in 2005

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Referrals Kept Pace Through First Half of Calendar Year 2006

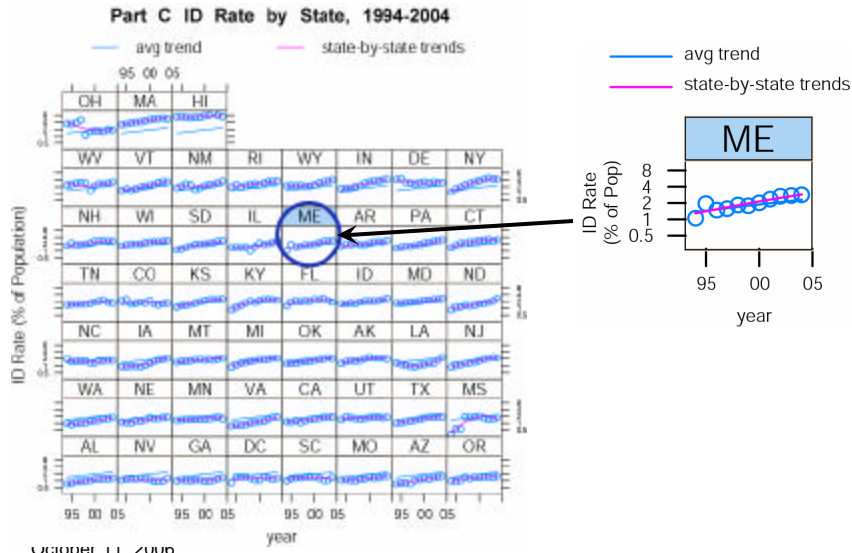


- Referrals in first half of 2006 are **not down**
- Data not yet available for current Fiscal Year (7/06 to present)

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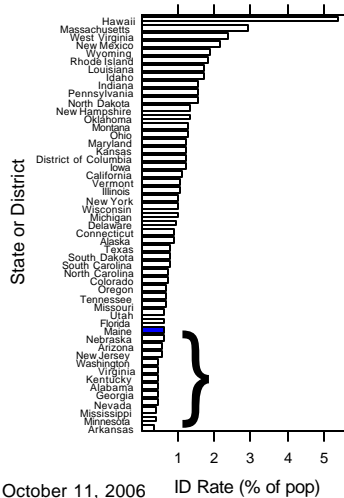
ME's Overall Part C ID Trend is Typical of Other States



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Where Maine Stands with Infants

2005 ID Rate Under Age 1



Maine's ID rate for children under age 1 is higher than one-third of states

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Return to Minding the Gap



Maine (CDS) does better than over 90% of states in closing the gap between 3-5-year-old ID rates and school-age ID rates

Source:
https://www.ideadata.org/tables28th/ar_1-10.htm
(2004 data)

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Refined “Minding the Gap”

- Premise: Autism can be diagnosed early
- Premise: Autism prevalence is flat or rising
- Therefore: A system doing good early detection should have an autism ID rate in preschool that is essentially the same (or slightly higher) than in elementary school.

	% of Population Identified with Autism, 2004	
	US	ME
3-5-year-olds	0.22%	0.67%
6-10-year-olds	0.41%	0.71%

Summary of Data:

- US overall** has a preschool autism ID rate **half** of the elementary school rate
- Maine's** autism ID is **almost the same** in preschool and elementary school.
- Maine's autism rate is higher overall (also true through high school).

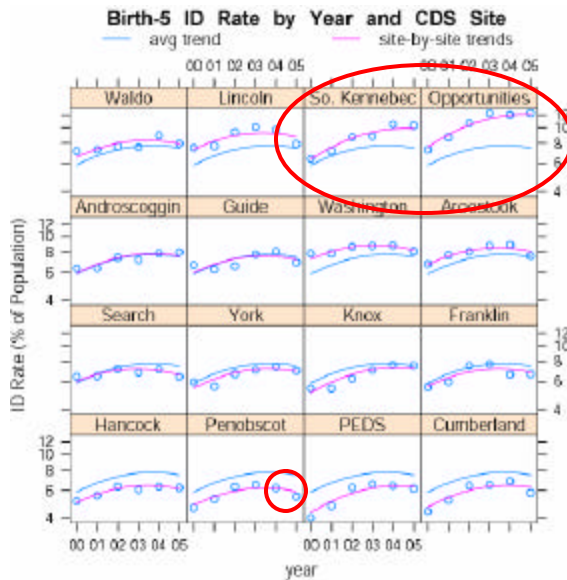
Conclusion from 1 & 2:

Maine is doing a better job than the US at early identification of autism.

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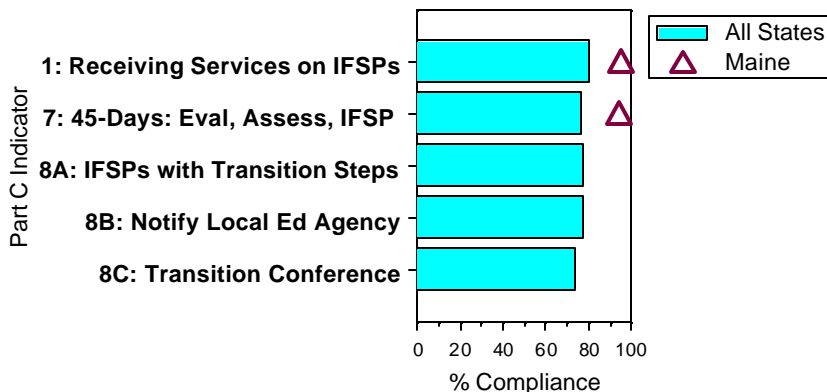
Birth-5 ID Rates are Now Flattening or Falling at Every Site



- ID rates have flattened or fallen at every site.
- In a couple sites ID rates have stabilized at a higher level.
- In the site that Dept of Education has run directly for two years, ID rate started out near the bottom, but it has fallen each year that the Department has been in control.

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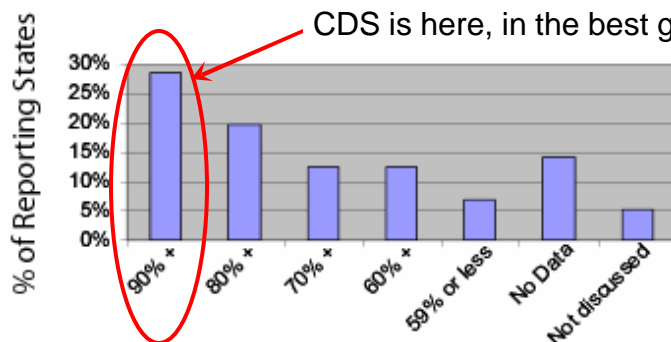
Maine's Part C Unmet Need Compliance and Timelines are Substantially Better than Most States'



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Maine's Part C Unmet Needs



Compliance Rate for Indicator 1:
Receiving Services on IFSP

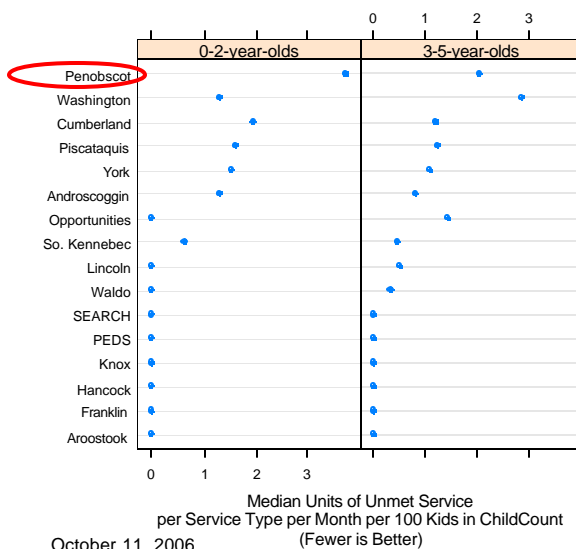
In avoiding unmet needs, Maine's compliance is **better** than over 70% of reporting states

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Unmet Needs Not Uniform Across Sites

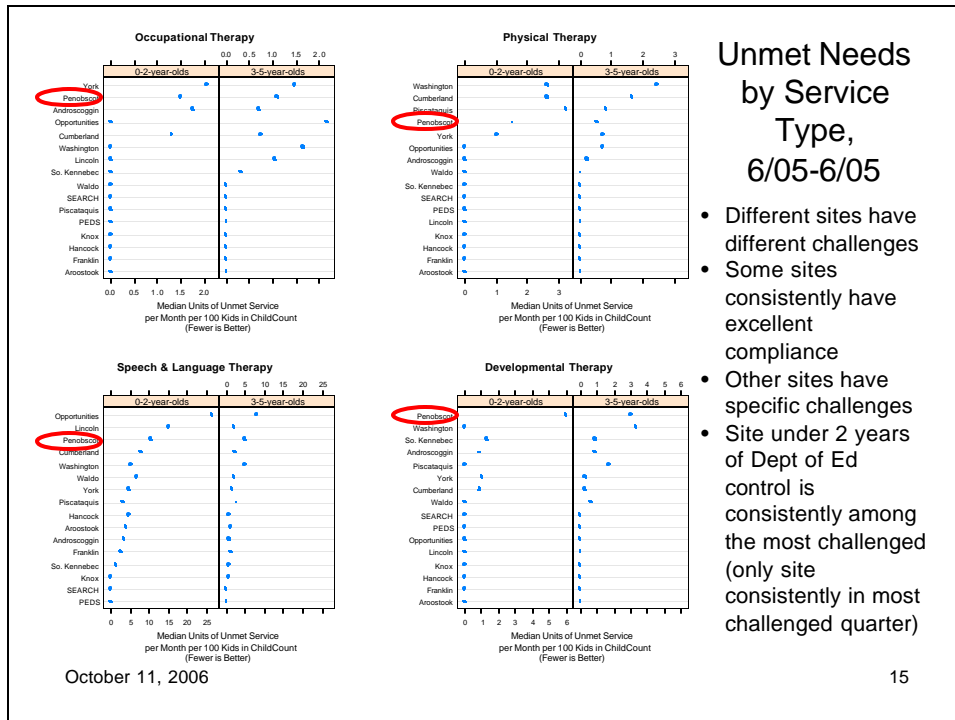
Overall Unmet Needs, 6/05-6/06



- By using medians across month, and medians across service, this analysis ignores quickly resolved "spikes" in unmet needs
- It's unclear why, but site under 2 years of direct Dept of Ed control has highest unmet needs

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Unmet Needs by Service Type, 6/05-6/06

- Different sites have different challenges
- Some sites consistently have excellent compliance
- Other sites have specific challenges
- Site under 2 years of Dept of Ed control is consistently among the most challenged (only site consistently in most challenged quarter)

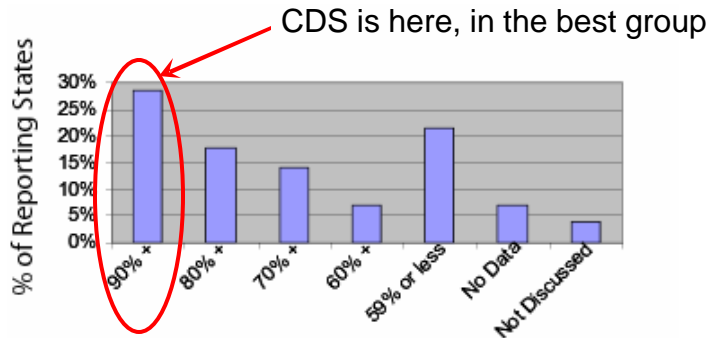
Unmet Needs Good News & Bad News

- US Dept of Education requires 100% compliance, so we must continue to work on achieving that.
- Maine's data shows that CDS's compliance (at least in Part C) is actually **better** than most states'.
- Reasons may be unclear, but the site that has been under direct control of Maine Dept of Education for 2 years has the greatest challenges in unmet needs (even though its ID rate is low)

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Maine's Part C Timelines



Compliance Rate for Indicator 7:
45-Day Timeline for Eval, Assessment, & IFSP Meeting

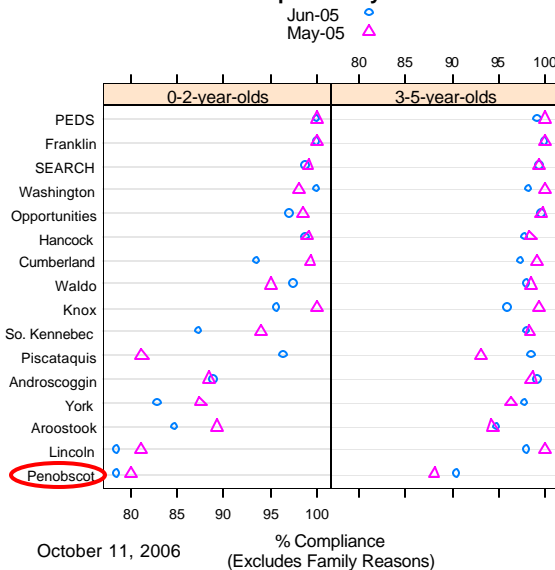
Maine's compliance with timelines is **better** than over 70% of reporting states

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Timeline Compliance Not Uniform Across Sites

Timeline Compliance by Site



In each of the two months for which Dept of Ed supplied data, site under 2 years of direct Dept of Ed control has poorest compliance with Part C and Part B timelines

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Timeline Compliance Good News & Bad News

- US Dept of Education requires 100% compliance, so we must continue to work on achieving that.
- Maine's data shows that CDS's compliance (at least in Part C) is actually **better** than most states'.
- Reasons may be unclear, but the site that has been under direct control of Maine Dept of Education for 2 years has the greatest challenges in timeline compliance (even though its ID rate is low)

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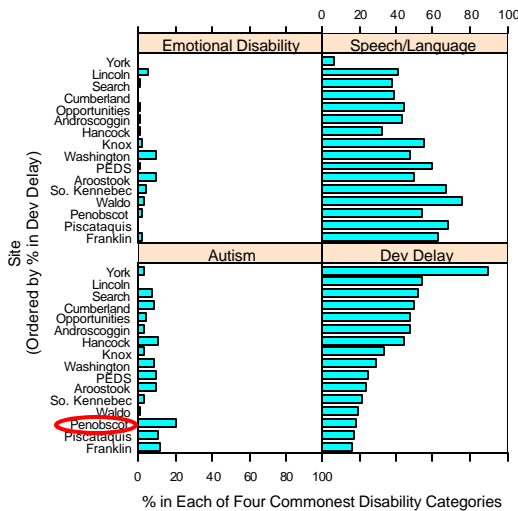
Maine's Transition from Part C to Part B

- Indicators 8A, 8B, 8C
- With CDS's seamless system for Birth-5, we presume that transition from Part C (Birth to 2 years old) to Part B (3 to 5 years old) is excellent
- But Maine Dept of Education has not reported any data on these indicators to US Dept of Education

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Disability Categories By Site

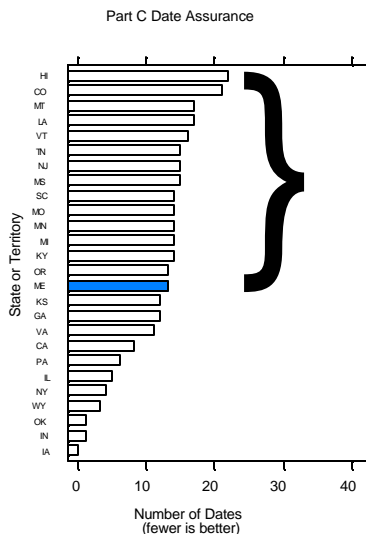


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- Substantial variations in % of kids with Dev Delay: substantial negative correlation with Speech/Language ($-.86$)
- Site with highest unmet needs and highest timeline noncompliance has highest rate of autism—but a correlation analysis suggested **no connection**:
 - Autism % had almost no correlation with unmet need compliance (.05)
 - Autism % had very little correlation with timeline compliance (.29)
- For the most part, sites with high autism rates actually had slightly **better** compliance

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7/1/07 Deadline for Part C Assurances: No emergency

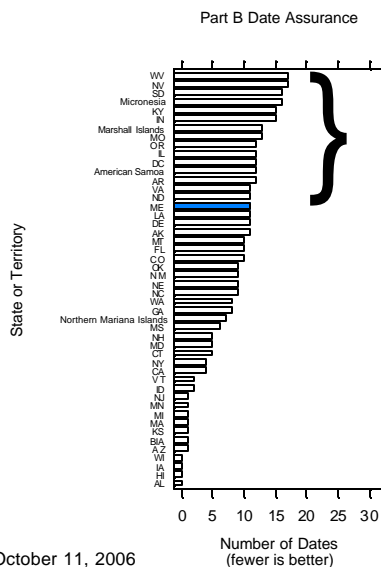


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- In 2006 IDEA funding applications, states could satisfy assurances or list dates by which assurances would be provided.
- Maine DOE has testified to legislative committees that it's important to meet USDOE's 7/1/07 deadline.
- All else being equal, the more assurances for which dates were listed, the more has to be done to get a state into line.
- By this measure, Maine is actually slightly **better than the median** in Part C assurances (in better shape than 56% of reporting states).

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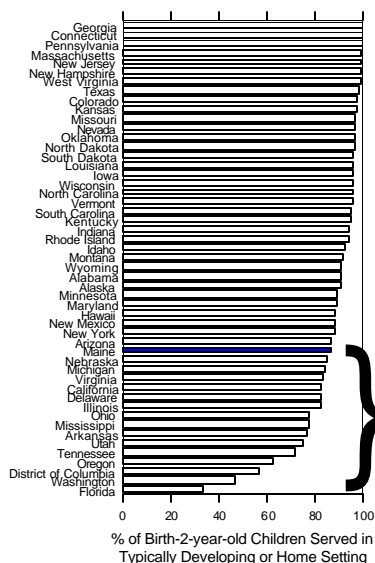
7/1/07 Deadline for Part B Assurances: No emergency



Maine is worse than the median in Part B assurances, but it is not way out of line (in better shape than 34% of reporting states).

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Natural Environment, 2004

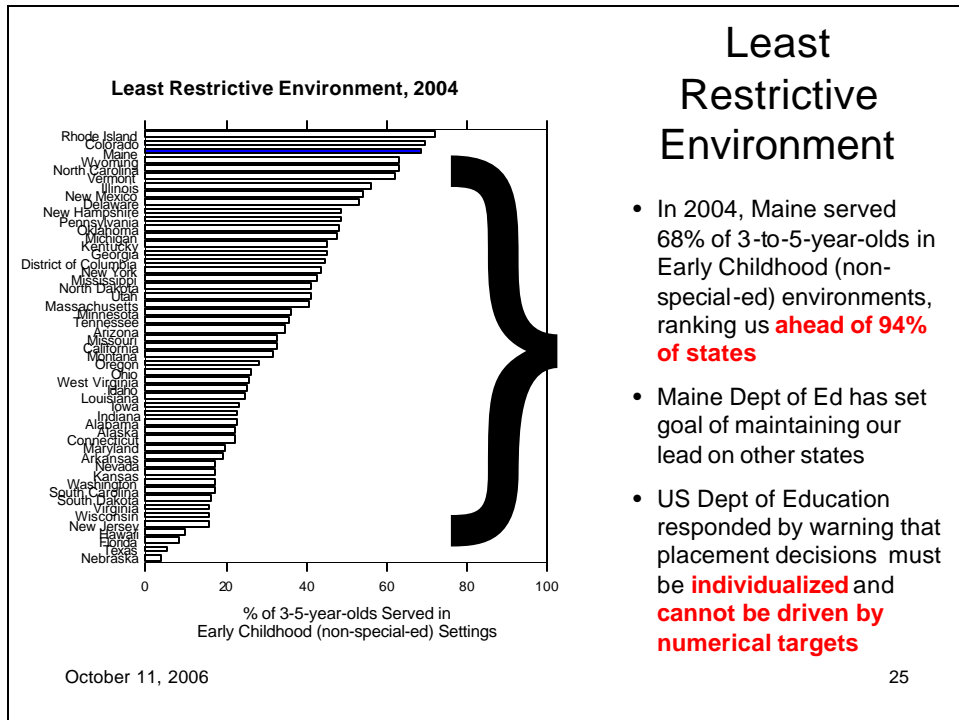


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Natural Environment

- In 2004, Maine served 86% of Birth-to-2-year-olds in Typically Developing or Home environments, ranking us ahead of about one-third of states
- US Dept of Education has **not** demanded 100% service in Natural Environment. It requires **individualization** and requires that IFSPs adequately document reasons when an Early Childhood Team removes a child from the Natural Environment.

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Take-home messages: ChildCount

- With one year's exception, Maine births have been increasing slightly for about five years
- Sudden drop in CDS 2005 ChildCount unexplainable by population change. Partly explained by referral drop in 2005, also partly by kids meeting goals.
- Referrals are keeping pace in 1st half of calendar year 2006

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Take-home messages: Part C ChildCount

- ME is similar to other states in Birth-to-2 ID trends
- Maine is somewhat behind other states in identifying children under age 1

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Take-home messages: Part B ChildCount

- Compared to other states, Maine excels at early (preschool) identification of disabilities, including autism

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Take-home messages: Birth-to-5

- Identification rates in CDS have flattened (dropping in 2005)
- Site under 2 years of direct control by Dept of Ed started out with low ID rate, driven lower

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Take-home messages: Compliance

- Maine's compliance with timelines from referral is better than most states'
- Biggest timeline noncompliance is in site under 2 years of direct control by Maine Dept of Education

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Take-home messages: Compliance

- Maine's compliance with avoiding unmet needs is better than most states'
- Bigger unmet needs tend occur in just a few sites, especially the site under 2 years of direct control by Maine Dept of Education

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Take-home messages: Transition from C to B

- In CDS's unified Birth-to-5 system, Maine's transition from Part C to Part B is essentially seamless
- US Dept of Education still requires data to document good transition
- Maine Dept of Education has not yet reported data required by US Dept of Education

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Take-home messages: Disability categories

- Developmental Delay category used at different rates across sites

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Take-home messages: Assurances

- Maine must make several assurances to US DOE before 7/1/07
- Maine's need to make the assurance deadlines is typical of other states

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Take-home messages: Natural Environment (Birth to 2)

- Maine is somewhat behind in Natural Environment, but IDEA and US DOE require individualization of placement decisions not driven by numerical goals

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Take-home messages: Least Restrictive Environment (3-5)

- Maine is way ahead in Least Restrictive Environment, but IDEA and US DOE require individualization of placement decisions not driven by numerical goals

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